

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, MARCH, 1947.

This Bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of the Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of March, 1947. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. The information which follows covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for the benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of the total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

19 JUN 1947

The March figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 6,505 males and 184 females, the total of 6,689 being 903 less than the peak figure of 7,592 for the previous month, but 3,789 over October, 1946.

<u>End of Month.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1946 - October	2,814	86	2,900
November	3,570	94	3,664
December	5,971	168	6,139
1947 - January	7,262	228	7,490
February	7,394	198	7,592
March	6,505	184	6,689

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes of earlier months; whilst the figures for the early months of 1947 are considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February recorded the highest number on unemployment benefit for this season; and, with seasonal industries re-employing displaced workers the number will soon reach a much lower level.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of March was 184, compared with 198 for February. The Rockhampton District figure, 74, was 19 less than the number for February, but it was still much higher than the figure for any other District. These females were mostly workers temporarily displaced from meatworks. Brisbane District had 30 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of March, Bundaberg 20, Toowoomba 17, and the balance of 43 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, January, February, and March, together with the change during March for each cause.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October.</u>	<u>January.</u>	<u>February.</u>	<u>March.</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease in March.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy	109	105	100	97	- 3
Inefficiency, incompetence	112	131	144	133	- 11
Establishment closed, reduction of staff	491	801	854	856	+ 2
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	128	131	106	- 25
Shortage of materials	130	260	252	250	- 2
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	3,456	3,327	2,598	-729
Casual work	495	909	958	1,010	+ 52
Discharged or laid off for other reasons	438	484	514	397	-117
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc.	231	413	440	429	- 11
Quitted for other reasons	179	302	324	314	- 10
Not previously employed	323	501	548	499	- 49
	2,900	7,490	7,592	6,689	-903

The number of persons drawing unemployment benefit in March due to the seasonal nature of their work decreased by 729, and there were decreases in most of the other causes, but benefits to casual workers (largely seasonal) increased by 52. While the peak of seasonal unemployment for the State had been passed in February, unemployment in the northern sugar districts was still increasing up to March. Southern sugar districts passed the peak in January or February, while the high figures for Rockhampton (largely temporarily displaced meat and butter factory workers) passed their peak level in January. In the western districts the numbers were generally highest in December. These movements are illustrated in the following statement which shows the number of persons drawing benefit in each district in October, 1946, the number in the month up to March, 1947, showing the highest level of unemployment, and the number in March, 1947, together with the increase from October, 1946, to the seasonal peak, and the subsequent decrease.

District.	October, 1946.	Peak of Seasonal Unemployment to March, 1947.	March, 1947.	Increase October to Peak.	Decrease Peak to March.
Brisbane ..	1,401	2,065 (Feb. 1947)	1,715	664	350
Ipswich ..	154	190 (Dec. 1946)	77	36	113
Gympie ..	21	30 (Feb. 1947)	15	9	15
Maryborough	127	221 (Jan. 1947)	160	94	61
Bundaberg ..	101	596 (Jan. 1947)	490	495	106
Toowoomba ..	94	177 (Feb. 1947)	120	83	57
Warwick ..	23	42 (Dec. 1946)	18	19	24
Roma ..	10	24 (Dec. 1946)	4	14	20
Charleville	44	75 (Dec. 1946)	14	31	61
Rockhampton	345	1,462 (Jan. 1947)	662	1,117	800
Emerald ..	1	10 (Jan. 1947)	4	9	6
Longreach ..	12	117 (Dec. 1946)	24	105	93
Mackay ..	229	861 (Mar. 1947)	861	632	.
Ayr ..	10	233 (Feb. 1947)	222	223	11
Townsville	127	616 (Mar. 1947)	616	489	.
Ingham ..	7	440 (Mar. 1947)	440	433	.
Innisfail ..	15	368 (Mar. 1947)	368	353	.
Cairns ..	77	599 (Mar. 1947)	599	522	.
Charters Towers	69	182 (Feb. 1947)	182	113	.
Atherton ..	30	78 (Mar. 1947)	78	48	.
Hughenden ..	3	52 (Feb. 1947)	20	49	32

Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. 1) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. The totals along the bottom of the sheet show the numbers unemployed from each cause, while the totals on the right show the numbers unemployed in each district and the number unemployed per 10,000 population in main groups of districts. Although the Moreton Division numbers are the second highest, they represent a much smaller proportion of the district population than is the case for any other Division, except the Downs and South West. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows very high figures for the north coast sugar areas, since, as shown above, they had not started in March to decline from their peak of seasonal unemployment, whereas the peak had been passed earlier in southern and western districts.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. II shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. The totals at the foot of the sheet give the numbers in each industry group of the State. Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying industries have the highest total (25 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit), and the bulk of this is in sugar farming areas. This is followed by food and drink factories, largely meatworks and sugar mills, building and construction, discharged servicemen, and ex-employees of Australian or Allied forces (mostly in Brisbane).

During March, in the north coast sugar areas, there was an increase of 186 from farms, and 103 from building and construction. In Rockhampton, food factories (largely meatworks and butter factories) unemployment decreased by 575. In the south coast sugar areas, field labour unemployment decreased by 84, and food and drink factory unemployment by 71, the latter decrease probably due to increased operations of butter factories. The numbers were widely distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville districts.

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BRISBANE.

11th June, 1947.

TABLE I. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
MARCH, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or laid off							Quitted.			Not previously employed.	Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 Population.
Brisbane ..	32	82	359	49	113	100	243	229	177	94	237	1,715	
Ipswich ..	4	6	7	2	9	3	6	9	11	8	12	77	
Moreton ..	36	88	366	51	122	103	249	238	188	102	249	1,792	34
ympie ..	.	.	5	2	1	2	.	.	1	.	4	15	
aryborough ..	1	4	41	2	18	17	33	6	9	13	16	160	
undaberg ..	.	3	27	6	12	236	114	4	32	23	33	490	
S.E.Coastal	1	7	73	10	31	255	147	10	42	36	53	665	60
owoomba ..	5	4	18	5	12	4	18	21	15	8	10	120	
arwick ..	.	.	8	.	1	.	2	.	2	3	2	18	
oma ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	1	.	4	
arleville	.	.	.	.	.	4	7	.	1	.	2	14	
Downs and S.W.	5	4	26	5	13	8	28	23	18	12	14	156	11
ockhampton	7	9	74	11	18	255	120	34	32	43	59	662	
erald ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	1	4	
ngreach ..	.	2	5	1	.	4	3	2	5	1	1	24	
Central ..	7	11	79	12	18	259	124	38	37	44	61	690	68
ockay ..	8	3	14	4	10	564	149	24	28	17	40	861	
r ..	.	1	49	3	.	122	11	5	13	13	5	222	
ansville ..	11	17	73	10	16	254	91	37	32	35	40	616	
gham ..	.	.	3	.	15	331	68	1	11	10	1	440	
isfail ..	4	.	17	1	8	261	37	4	18	13	5	368	
irns ..	12	2	127	2	5	365	34	8	13	15	16	599	
N. Coastal	35	23	283	20	54	1,897	390	79	115	103	107	3,106	205
arters Towers	9	.	19	7	6	54	36	7	20	13	11	182	
herton ..	2	.	7	1	6	18	32	1	3	4	4	78	
ghenden ..	2	.	3	.	.	4	4	1	6	.	.	20	
North West	13	.	29	8	12	76	72	9	29	17	15	280	59
TOTAL STATE	97	133	856	106	250	2,598	1,010	397	429	314	499	6,689	62

TABLE II. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.
MARCH, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying.	Other Primary (including mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink	Other Factories	Building and Construction	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	58	28	147	201	130	135	75	92	144	33	223	102	165	129	1,715
Swich ..	4	6	6	5	12	12	1	4	1	4	2	7	8	5	77
Moreton ..	62	34	153	206	142	147	76	96	145	90	225	109	173	134	1,792
Capie ..	1	1	1	2	3	1	.	1	2	1	.	2	.	.	15
Wyborough ..	17	9	16	21	17	18	18	9	4	10	.	4	11	6	160
Madberg ..	190	23	6	82	11	47	48	8	11	25	2	14	14	9	490
E. Coastal ..	208	33	23	105	31	66	66	18	17	36	2	20	25	15	665
Woomba ..	13	2	9	9	17	26	.	5	2	9	7	5	8	8	120
Wick ..	3	.	1	3	.	1	.	.	1	3	2	1	1	2	18
a ..	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	4
Arleville ..	5	3	.	1	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	14
Towns and S.W. ..	22	5	10	14	17	30	.	7	3	12	9	7	10	10	156
Hampton ..	62	22	12	288	24	61	55	18	23	27	4	17	33	16	662
Rald ..	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	4
Greach ..	10	.	1	.	.	3	.	1	1	.	.	5	1	2	24
Central ..	73	23	13	288	24	65	55	19	24	27	4	22	35	18	590
Kay ..	319	21	10	268	24	106	2	21	10	27	4	13	23	13	861
..	107	10	.	48	3	21	.	6	9	4	2	4	4	4	222
nsville ..	40	24	18	258	17	86	34	18	24	15	24	25	21	12	616
ham ..	267	7	.	104	10	37	3	4	1	.	1	4	.	2	440
isfail ..	221	10	4	64	9	23	9	6	.	7	1	10	2	2	368
rns ..	263	36	1	121	21	56	21	21	6	9	4	16	8	16	599
E. Coastal ..	1,217	108	33	863	84	329	69	76	50	62	36	72	58	49	3,106
Porters Towers ..	37	10	1	53	8	35	1	9	1	7	2	4	3	11	182
erton ..	16	9	.	6	5	25	.	8	5	2	.	2	.	.	78
henden ..	7	2	.	1	2	1	.	4	.	1	.	.	.	2	20
North West ..	60	21	1	60	15	61	1	21	6	10	2	6	3	13	280
AL STATE	1,642	224	233	1,536	313	698	267	237	245	237	278	236	304	239	6,689

S/T 1980